

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MANILA 08874 300431Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02
OPIC-03 SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-07 CEA-01 IO-13 /116 W
-----010441 300445Z /13

R 300421Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6399
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 08874

USEEC FOR BRUSSELS
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EFIN, JA, ASEAN
SUBJECT: ASEAN STABEX MEETING POSTPONED

REF: (A) STATE 134377 (NOTAL), (B) TOKYO 8736 (NOTAL)

1. ACCORDING TO JAPANESE EMBASSY HERE, ASEAN/JAPANESE EXPERTS MEETING ON STABEX WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR MAY 29-30 TO WHICH THE PHILIPPINES OBJECTED BECAUSE OF THE CONFLICT WITH THE ASEAN EXPERTS MEETING ON DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED STATES. NEXT SUGGESTED DATE OF JUNE 2-3 WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOI WHICH WAS CONFIDENTIAL

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HOSTING A SENIOR OFFICIALS MEETING PREPARATORY TO THE ECONOMIC MINISTERIAL ON JUNE 5-6. STABEX MEETING HAS BEEN POSTPONED INDEFINITELY.

2. JAPANESE FOREIGN OFFICE IS APPARENTLY EMBARRASSED OVER THE NON-MEETING. IT HAD PERSUADED THE OTHER MINISTRIES TO GO ALONG WITH THE STABEX MEETING AS MEANS OF GIVING

SOME SUBSTANCE TO FOREIGN MINISTER SONODA'S MEETING WITH THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS FOLLOWING THE ANNUAL ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERIAL ON JUNE 14-16 IN PATTAYA. INSTEAD, IT FOUND THAT THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WERE NOT IN A HURRY AND INDEED EXCEPT FOR MALAYSIA DID NOT EVINCE DEEP INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT. THE ASEAN PAPER ON STABEX WAS PREPARED BY MALAYSIA. WE UNDERSTAND THAT FOUR MAJOR PHILIPPINE COMMODITIES ARE COVERED -- SUGAR, COPPER, COCONUT PRODUCTS, AND TIMBER.

3. DESPITE THE NO-START OF THE STABEX MEETING, SONODA WILL GO THROUGH WITH HIS MEETING WITH THE ASEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AS WELL AS HIS VISIT ON JUNE 18-20 TO BANGKOK. HOWEVER, HIS TOUR OF THE OTHER FOUR ASEAN CAPITALS HAS BEEN POSTPONED. REAL REASON FOR THE POSTPONEMENT IS THAT THERE IS AGAIN MOVEMENT ON THE SINO-JAPANESE PEACE TREATY. APPARENTLY THE PRC HAS GOTTEN ITS HOUSE IN ORDER AND IS PUTTING THE SENKAKU ISSUE ON THE SHELF, AND THERE IS A POSSIBILITY OF SONODA GOING TO PEKING. TOUSSAINT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, ECONOMIC COOPERATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978MANILA08874
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0442
Format: TEL
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978058/aaaaaghm.tel
Line Count: 82
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 65942aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 134377, 78 TOKYO 8736
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2752308
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ASEAN STABEX MEETING POSTPONED
TAGS: EGEN, ETRD, EFIN, JA, ASEAN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/65942aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014